

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

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INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

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AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

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TAGS: PFOR, NATO, DA

SUBJECT: NATO'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY

SUMMARY: NATO RECEIVED PRAISE AND GOOD WISHES FROM
FOREIGN MINISTER GULDBERG AND MOST NEWSPAPERS ON ITS
ANNIVERSARY, ALTHOUGH POMPIDOU'S DEATH AND BRITISH
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DEMANDS FOR EC RENEGOTIATION CONTINUE TO DOMINATE

HEADLINES. MORE IMPORTANTLY, LATEST GALLUP POLL INDICATES NATO POPULARITY IN DENMARK RISING AND IS NOW WELL ABOVE AVERAGE FOR PAST 25 YEARS. END SUMMARY.

1. OVE GULDBERG PRAISED NATO IN ADDRESS TO DINNER MEETING OF ATLANTIC ASSOCIATION IN COPENHAGEN. SAYING THAT IT IS FUNCTIONING WELL AND SOLIDLY IN ALL ESSENTIAL RESPECTS. HE COMMENTED, ALSO, THAT PRESS HAD MADE TOO MUCH OF RECENT CONTROVRSY OVER TRANS-ATLANTIC CONSULTATIONS. GULDBERG OPINED THAT EUROGROUP COULD PLAY SIGNIFICANT ROLE IF EUROPE SHOULD, AS RESULT OF CONSULTATIONS, TAKE ON LARGER SHARE OF COMMON DEFENSE BURDEN.

2. FRONT PAGES OF PRESS HAVE BEEN FILLED WITH SPECULATION ABOUT POMPIDOU'S SUCCESSOR AND CONSEQUENCES OF BRITISH INITIATIVE TO SECURE BETTER TERMS FROM EC. MOST NEWSPAPERS, HOWEVER, GIVE FAVORABLE LOW-KEY EDITORIAL COVERAGE TO NATO, AND EVEN LEFTIST PRESS IS NOT AS NEGATIVE AS USUAL.

3. CONSERVATIVE BERLINGSKE TIDENDE MARKS ANNIVERSARY BY PUBLISHING NEW GALLUP POLL, SHOWING THAT 52 PERCENT OF THOSE POLLED FAVOR NATO, WITH ONLY 19 PERCENT OPPOSED, AND 29 PERCENT UNDECIDED. ALTHOUGH THIS REPRESENTS ONLY SLIGHT INCREASE, FROM 49 TO 52 PERCENT, IN FAVORABLE VOTE RECORDED LAST NOVEMBER, OPPONENTS SANK FROM 25 TO 19 PERCENT. MOREOVER, LAST TIME THAT POLL SHOWED SIGNIFICANTLY GREATER PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR NATO WAS NEARLY 13 YEARS AGO, IN AUGUST 1961, DURING BERLIN WALL CRISIS, WHEN FIGURES WERE 58 PERCENT FOR AND 8 PERCENT AGAINST.

4. OTHER INTERESTING STATISTICS IN POLL SHOWED THAT:
1) EVEN 29 PERCENT OF THOSE OPPOSING DANISH MEMBERSHIP CONSIDERED THAT NATO HAD CONTRIBUTED TO EUROPEAN SECURITY;
2) 59 PERCENT OF ALL POLLED BELIEVED US PARTICIPATION WAS NECESSARY TO DEFEND EUROPE: 3) SLIGHT PLURALITY (37 TO 34 PERCENT) THOUGHT NUCLEAR WEAPONS WERE NECESSARY FOR EUROPEAN DEFENSE. MOST SURPRISING RESULT WAS, PERHAPS, POLLSTERS FINDING THAT 45 PERCENT OF DANES WERE NOT OPPOSED TO FRG POSSESSION OF ATOMIC
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WEAPONS. NEWSPAPER COMMENTS THAT THIS IS IMPRESSIVE SHOWING OF TRUST IN WEST GERMAN POLITICAL LEADERS, INDICATING THAT MEMORIES OF WORLD WAR II HAVE NOW FADED FROM POPULAR CONSCIOUSNESS.
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